

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ludomir Budzyn on 04/27/2006. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 2 and 4.

Claim 1, line 6, after ' , a pair of adjacent said panels', **insert**— , wherein said corners each convergently taper towards respective said closed end. —

Claim 3, line 1, after 'as in claim', **delete**— 2 —

Claim 3, line 1, after 'as in claim', **insert**— 1—

Claim 10 (New), **insert**— A multiwell plate comprising a plate body having a plurality of wells formed therein, at least a portion of said wells each being formed with an open end, a closed end and a side wall extending therebetween, said side wall including four spaced-apart rectangular panels and four rounded corners, each of said corners located to join, and extend between, a pair of adjacent said panels, wherein each said corner includes two side edges that extend between said closed end and said open end, said side edges converging towards said closed end. —

Claim 11 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of said wells

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each converge toward respective said closed end. —

Claim 12 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 11, wherein said rectangular panels taper inwardly toward respective said closed end. —

Claim 13 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 11, wherein said corners each convergently taper towards respective said closed end. —

Claim 14 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 10, wherein said plate body is unitarily formed. —

Claim 15 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 10, wherein said closed ends of said wells are at least partially formed by a separate base portion joined to said side walls.

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Claim 16 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 10, wherein said closed ends of said wells are at least partially formed by base portions unitarily formed with said side walls.

Claim 10 (New), **insert**— A plate as in claim 10, wherein each said rectangular panel is formed with two side edges that extend between said closed end and said open end, said side edges being generally parallel. —

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 3 and 5-17 are allowable over the prior art, since the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a multiwell plate with wells each having four rounded corners convergently tapered towards respective closed ends of the wells.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of

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Reasons for Allowance."Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Levkovich whose telephone number is 571-272-2462. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-4p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).